THE LITTLE CHILD'S CATECHISM

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THE LITTLE CHILD'S CATECHISM.

BY

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PRESBYTERIAN COMMITTEE OF PUBLICATION.

PREFACE.

THIS Catechism was prepared originally by the Author for his own children; and, with the hope that it may prove of equal benefit to others, it is now committed to the public. The object in view was to provide instruction in catechetical form, within the easy comprehension of even very young children, and it is believed that there are few of the answers herein given which may not be understood and memorized readily by the youngest learners. The lessons are regulated, not according to the amount necessary to be learned at one time, but according to subjects. The parent or teacher can judge best as to how much should be attempted at one time.

That it may prove a blessing to the children of the Church, and be instrumental in instructing them in the ways of righteousness, is the prayer of

THE AUTHOR.

Little Child's Catechism.

LESSON I

God.

Q. *Who made you and takes care of you?*

A. God.

Q. *What else did God make?*

A. All things.

Q. *What else does God take care of besides you?*

A. He takes care of all things.

Q. *What is God?*

A. God is a Spirit.

Q. *Where is God?*

A. He is everywhere.

Q. *Can you see God?*

A. No, I cannot see God.

Q. *Why cannot you see God?*

A. Because He is a Spirit.

Q. *Can God see you?*

A. Yes, God sees me.

Q. *Give a verse from the Bible which tells you this?*

A. "Thou God seest me."

Q. *Why can God see you?*

A. Because He sees and knows all things.

Q. *When does God see you?*

A. At all times.

Q. *Are there more Gods than one?*

A. No, there is but one God.

Q. *In how many Persons does this one God exist?*

A. In three Persons.

Q. *What are they?*

A. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

LESSON II.

THE SOUL.

Q. *Have you a soul as well as a body?*

A. Yes, I have a soul that can never die.

Q. *Do all little children have souls as well as bodies?*

A. Yes, all little children have souls.

Q. *How do you know that you have a soul?*

A. Because I can think about God and the world to come.

Q. *Do beasts and birds and other such creatures have souls?*

A. They do not.

Q. *Can your soul ever die as your body dies?*

A. No, my soul can never die.

Q. *How do you know that your soul can never die?*

A. Because the Bible teaches me so

Q. *Who first created your soul?*

A. God, who made all things.

Q. *Where do you learn this?*

A. In the Bible.

Q. *Why did God create your soul?*

A. To love and enjoy Him.

Q. *What does God require of you?*

A. To love Him with all my heart.

LESSON III.

JESUS CHRIST.

Q. *Who is Jesus Christ?*
A. The Son of God.
Q. *What is Jesus Christ?*
A. Our Lord and Saviour.
Q. *Where did Jesus come from when He came to earth?*
A. From Heaven.
Q. *Why did Jesus come from Heaven?*
A. To save sinners.
Q. *Why did He want to save sinners?*
A. Because He loved and pitied them.
Q. *Was Jesus a sinner?*
A. No; He was without sin.
Q. *How does He save sinners?*
A. By dying for them.
Q. *Where was Jesus born?*
A. In Bethlehem of Judea.
Q. *In the days of what King?*
A. In the days of Herod the King.
Q. *What kind of a death did He die?*
A. A very shameful and painful one.

Q. *On what did Jesus die?*
A. On the cross.
Q. *Where was the cross?*
A. On Calvary.
Q. *Where was Calvary?*
A. Near Jerusalem.
Q. *Who commanded Him to be put to death?*
A. Pontius Pilate.
Q. *Who was Pontius Pilate?*
A. The Roman Governor.

LESSON IV.

The Holy Spirit.

Q. *Who is the Holy Spirit?*
A. He is God.
Q. *Where is the Holy Spirit?*
A. He is everywhere.
Q. *Does the Holy Spirit see and know all things?*
A. Yes.
Q. *Why does He see and know all things?*
A. Because He is God.

Q. *What does the Holy Spirit do for us?*

A. He changes our hearts.

Q. *What else does He do for us?*

A. He teaches us the truth.

Q. *What truth does He teach us?*

A. The truth we need to know in order to be saved.

Q. *What is our duty to the Holy Spirit?*

A. To pray to Him.

Q. *What else?*

A. To obey His voice.

Q. *How must we honor Him?*

A. As God.

Q. *What must we not do to Him?*

A. We must not grieve Him.

Q. *What does the Bible say about this?*

A. "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God."

Q. *What promise does God make about giving His Spirit?*

A. "I will put my Spirit within you."

LESSON V.

THE NEW BIRTH.

Q. *What do all mankind need before they can go to Heaven?*

A. A change of heart.

Q. *Do little children need this change of heart as well as others?*

A. Yes, little children as well as others.

Q. *Why do little children as well as all mankind need this change of heart?*

A. Because all have a sinful nature.

Q. *What does God call this change of heart?*

A. "A new heart."

Q. *What promise does God make about this new heart?*

A. "A new heart will I give you."

Q. *What else does God call this new heart?*

A. Being born again.

Q. *What does Jesus say about it?*

A. "Ye must be born again."

Q. *Must little children be born again as well as others?*

A. Yes.

Q. *Who alone can change the heart?*

A. The Holy Spirit.

Q. *What prayer can little children pray about the new heart?*

A. "Create in me a clean heart, O God."

LESSON VI.

The Bible.

Q. *What Book has God given us to teach us what we must do?*

A. The Bible.

Q. *Who wrote the Bible?*

A. Holy men of God.

Q. *When did these holy men live?*

A. A great while ago.

Q. *Who taught them what to write?*

A. The Holy Spirit.

Q. *What is the Bible, then?*

A. The Word of God.

Q. *What does the Bible teach us?*

A. Our duty to God.

Q. *What else does it teach us?*

A. Our duty to our fellow-men.

Q. *What does it teach us about God?*

A. It teaches us what God is.

Q. *What else does it teach us about God?*

A. How He loves us and what He has done for us.

Q. *What does the Bible teach us of our duty to God?*

A. To love and obey Him.

Q. *What does it teach us of our duty to our fellow-men?*

A. To love all mankind.

Q. *What else?*

A. To be kind to one another.

Q. *What does the Bible show us?*

A. The way to Heaven.

LESSON VII.

THE MORAL LAW.

Q. *How many commandments has God given us?*

A. Ten.

Q. *Where were the Ten Commandments given?*

A. At Mount Sinai.

Q. *How were they given?*

A. God spake them with His voice.

Q. *Why did God give these commandments?*

A. To teach us what is right or wrong.

Q. *Upon what were the Ten Commandments written?*

A. Upon two tables of stone.

Q. *How many commandments upon the first table?*

A. Four.

Q. *How many upon the second table?*

A. Six.

Q. *What does the first table contain?*

A. Our duty to God.

Q. *What does the second table contain?*

A. Our duty to man.

Q. *What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?*

A. To love God with all our heart and our neighbor as ourselves.

Q. *Can any one perfectly keep these commandments of God?*

A. No, not now.

Q. *Why can no one perfectly keep them now?*

A. Because all men are sinners.

Q. *Who only can help a little child to obey and keep these commandments of God?*

A. The Holy Spirit.

Q. *Will He help little children to keep them?*

A. Yes, if they ask Him.

Q. *Where does God say is our help?*

A. "In Me is thine help."

Q. *What little prayer can children pray who want to do God's will?*

A. "Teach me to do Thy will."

LESSON VIII.

SIN.

Q. *What is sin?*

A. Doing anything wrong.

Q. *Is anything else sin?*

A. Yes, not doing what we ought to do.

Q. *What does God call sin?*

A. An abominable thing.

Q. *What are God's feelings towards it?*

A. He hates it.

Q. *Why does God hate sin?*

A. Because it is so evil.

Q. *What else does He say about sin?*

A. That He cannot look upon it.

Q. *What does this mean?*

A. That He cannot endure it.

Q. *Will God punish sin?*

A. He will.

Q. *Why must He punish it?*

A. Because it deserves to be punished.

Q. *What only can take away sin?*

A. The blood of Jesus Christ.

Q. *What does the Bible say about the blood of Jesus Christ?*

A. That it cleanses from all sin.

LESSON IX.

REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

Q. *What does God command all men to do in regard to sin?*

A. To repent of it.

Q. *What is it to repent of sin?*
A. To be sorry for it.
Q. *What else?*
A. To forsake it.
Q. *Do those truly repent of sin who continue to love and practice it?*
A. No.
Q. *Can we be sorry for and forsake sin without help?*
A. We cannot.
Q. *Who must help us?*
A. God our Saviour.
Q. *What does the Bible say that Jesus is exalted to give?*
A. To give repentance.
Q. *What else does Jesus give to those who repent?*
A. Forgiveness of sin.
Q. *When we commit sin what must we ask God to do?*
A. To forgive us.
Q. *For whose sake?*
A. For Christ's sake.
Q. *What is it to have faith in Christ?*
A. To trust in Him.

Q. *Does He invite us to come to Him?*

A. Yes.

Q. *Does He promise to receive us?*

A. He does.

Q. *Who may come to Jesus?*

A. Whosoever will may come.

LESSON X.

PRAYER.

Q. *To whom ought we to pray?*

A. To God only.

Q. *In whose name ought we to pray?*

A. In the name of Christ.

Q. *For what ought we to pray?*

A. For forgiveness of sin, cleansing of our hearts, and whatever else we may need.

Q. *How often ought we to pray?*

A. At least every morning and evening.

Q. *What beautiful prayer has Christ left us to teach us how to pray?*

A. The Lord's Prayer.

Q. *How does the Lord's Prayer begin?*

A. *"Our Father which art in heaven."*

Q. *What is the first petition?*

A. "Hallowed be Thy name."

Q. *What is the second petition?*

A. "Thy kingdom come."

Q. *What is the third petition?*

A. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Q. *What is the fourth petition?*

A. "Give us this day our daily bread."

Q. *What is the fifth petition?*

A. "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."

Q. *What is the sixth petition?*

A. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Q. *What is the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer?*

A. "For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Q. *What can teach us how to pray?*

A. God's Word and His Holy Spirit.

LESSON XI.

THE SABBATH.

Q. *What day has God set apart more particularly for His own worship?*

A. The Sabbath day.

Q. *What is the Sabbath day called?*

A. The Lord's day.

Q. *Who arose from the dead on that day?*

A. Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Q. *Is this why the Sabbath is called the Lord's day?*

A. Yes.

Q. *What command has God given about the Sabbath?*

A. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Q. *How can we keep the Sabbath holy?*

A. By spending it in the worship and service of God.

Q. *What does God promise to those who remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy?*

A. He promises to bless them.

Q. *What does He threaten against those who profane His Sabbaths?*

A. His grievous displeasure.

Q. *What short text of Scripture then should we remember?*

A. "My Sabbaths ye shall keep."

LESSON XII.

The Sacraments.

Q. *What means of grace has God given us?*

A. His Word, sacraments and prayer.

Q. *How many sacraments are there?*

A. Only two.

Q. *What are they?*

A. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Q. *Who appointed these sacraments?*

A. Jesus Christ.

Q. *For what purpose did He appoint them?*

A. For our instruction, comfort and salvation.

Q. *What element is used in baptism?*

A. Water.

Q. *What does baptism teach us?*

A. That our natures are sinful and need to be cleansed.

Q. *Who only can cleanse our sinful natures?*

A. The Holy Spirit alone.

Q. *Of what does baptism then remind us?*

A. The work of the Holy Spirit.

Q. *In whose name is baptism to be administered?*

A. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Q. *Who are to be baptized?*

A. Believers and their children.

Q. *What should baptized children remember?*

A. That they belong to God.

Q. *How should they endeavor to live?*

A. Holy and blameless lives.

Q. *Can they do this of themselves?*

A. No; they must seek God's grace to help them.

Q. *Of what does the Lord's Supper remind us?*

A. Of our absent Saviour.

Q. *What elements are used in this sacrament?*

A. Bread and wine.

Q. *What does the bread represent?*

A. Our Lord's body.

Q. *What does the wine represent?*

A. His shed blood.

Q. *What does He say about this sacrament?*

A. "This do in remembrance of me."

Q. *What does the Lord's Supper teach us?*

A. That Christ died for our sins.

Q. *What else does it teach us?*

A. That we ought to love and serve Him.

Q. *How long are we to observe this sacrament?*

A. Until He comes again.

LESSON XIII.

THE OFFICES OF CHRIST.

Q. *Who is the only King and Head of the Church?*

A. Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Q. *What is Jesus Christ to us?*

A. Our Redeemer.

Q. *How many offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?*

A. Three.

Q. *What are they?*

A. He is our Prophet, Priest and King.

Q. *Why do we need a Prophet?*

A. Because we are ignorant.

Q. *What does Christ do for us as our Prophet?*

A. He teaches us the will of God.

Q. *By what means?*

A. By His Word and Spirit.

Q. *Why do we need a Priest?*

A. Because we are sinful and guilty.

Q. *What does Christ do for us as our Priest?*

A. He died for our sins.

Q. *What else?*

A. He reconciles us to God.

Q. *And what else?*

A. He intercedes for us.

Q. *Why do we need a King?*

A. Because we are weak and our foes are strong.

Q. *What does Christ do for us as our King?*

A. He rules us and defends us.

Q. *What will He do to His and our enemies?*

A. Restrain and conquer them.

LESSON XIV.

Obedience to Parents and Other Duties.

Q. *How should children act towards their parents?*

A. Obey them.

Q. *What does the Bible say about this?*

A. "Children, obey your parents."

Q. *Why should children do this?*

A. Because it is right.

Q. *What does God command about this?*

A. "Honor thy father and thy mother."

Q. *How can children honor their parents?*

A. By loving and obeying them.

Q. *What promise does God make to those who obey this command?*

A. A promise of long life.

Q. *What does God say about profane swearing?*

A. We must not take His name in vain.

Q. *What does He say about murder?*

A. "Thou shalt not kill."

Q. *What does He say about stealing?*

A. "Thou shalt not steal."

Q. *What does He say about lying?*

A. That we must not tell a lie.

Q. *What does He say about coveting?*

A. "Thou shalt not covet."

Q. *What does He command about love to our neighbor?*

A. To love our neighbor as ourselves.

LESSON XV.

HEAVEN AND HELL.

Q. *What is Heaven?*

A. A beautiful and glorious place.

Q. *Where is Heaven?*
A. Beyond the sky.
Q. *Who live in Heaven?*
A. God and the holy angels.
Q. *Are there any others in Heaven besides these?*
A. Yes, many who have gone from this earth.
Q. *Who are these?*
A. All who have died in the Lord.
Q. *What does the Bible call them?*
A. "The spirits of just men made perfect."
Q. *Who else are there?*
A. Many little children are there.
Q. *How came they there?*
A. Through the blood of Christ.
Q. *What is the state of those in Heaven?*
A. They are holy and happy forever.
Q. *What is hell?*
A. A place of great misery and woe.
Q. *What is it for?*
A. A place of punishment.
Q. *Who only are sent there?*
A. Those who love and continue in sin.

Q. *How may we escape being sent there?*

A. Only through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q. *How is this to be done?*

A. By repentance and forsaking of sin, and trusting in Him as our Saviour.

LESSON XVI.

Bible History.

Q. *Who were our first parents?*

A. Adam and Eve.

Q. *Of what was Adam made?*

A. Of the dust of the ground.

Q. *Of what was Eve made?*

A. Of one of Adam's ribs.

Q. *Where were our first parents placed after their creation?*

A. In the garden of Eden.

Q. *What was their condition at that time?*

A. They were holy and happy.

Q. *Did God give them permission to eat of the trees of the garden?*

A. Yes, of all except one

Q. *What was that tree called?*

A. "The tree of knowledge of good and evil."

Q. *What did God command in regard to that tree?*

A. That they must not eat of it.

Q. *What was to happen to them if they ate of it?*

A. They would surely die.

Q. *Did they obey God?*

A. No, they disobeyed Him.

Q. *How did they disobey Him?*

A. By eating the forbidden fruit.

Q. *What did this disobedience bring into the world?*

A. It brought sin and death.

LESSON XVII.

BIBLE HISTORY.—*Continued.*

Q. *Who tempted Adam and Eve to sin?*

A. The devil.

Q. *Who is the devil?*

A. A fallen angel.

Q. *What does that mean?*

A. An angel who has sinned.

Q. *What is the devil called in Scripture?*

A. The "Old Serpent."

Q. *What did our first parents lose when they sinned against God?*

A. The favor of God.

Q. *Under what were they brought?*

A. Under His wrath and curse.

Q. *How did they feel?*

A. They felt afraid of God.

Q. *What did they try to do?*

A. To hide from Him.

Q. *Could they do this?*

A. No; no one can hide from God.

Q. *What is this disobedience of our first parents called?*

A. It is called "the fall."

Q. *Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?*

A. Into an estate of sin and misery.

Q. *Did God leave all mankind to perish in a state of sin and misery?*

A. No; He provided them a Saviour.

Q. *Who is this Saviour?*

A. The Lord Jesus Christ

LESSON XVIII.

BIBLE HISTORY.—*Continued.*

Q. *What became of Adam and Eve after they had sinned?*

A. They were driven out of the garden of Eden.

Q. *How were they kept from returning?*

A. By a flaming sword guarding the way.

Q. *By what else?*

A. By cherubim.

Q. *What are cherubim?*

A. Bright and holy angels.

Q. *What was cursed because of Adam's sin?*

A. The ground was cursed.

Q. *What was it to bring forth?*

A. Thorns and thistles.

Q. *What was to be their lot?*

A. Sorrow, suffering and toil.

Q. *How long was this to continue?*

A. All the days of their life.

Q. *To what were they to return at their death?*

A. To the ground from whence they were taken.

Q. *What did God say about this?*

A. "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Q. *Who did God promise would conquer the Old Serpent and bring salvation to our race?*

A. The Seed of the woman.

Q. *Who is He?*

A. Jesus Christ.

LESSON XIX.

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS ON OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.

Q. *Who was the first man?*

A. Adam.

Q. *The first woman?*

A. Eve.

Q. *The holiest man?*

A. Enoch.

Q. *The meekest man?*

A. Moses.

Q. *The oldest man?*

A. Methuselah.

Q. *The strongest man?*
A. Samson.
Q. *The wisest man?*
A. Solomon.
Q. *The most patient man?*
A. Job.
Q. *Who built the ark?*
A. Noah.
Q. *Who went to heaven without dying?*
A. Enoch and Elijah.
Q. *Who went to heaven in a chariot of fire?*
A. Elijah.
Q. *Who was the friend of God?*
A. Abraham.
Q. *Who ministered to the Lord when a child?*
A. Samuel.
Q. *Who was hated by his brethren?*
A. Joseph.
Q. *Who was the sweet singer of Israel?*
A. David.
Q. *Who built the temple?*
A. Solomon.

Q. *Who hid 100 of the Lord's prophets in a cave?*

A. Obadiah.

Q. *Who was fed by ravens?*

A. Elijah.

Q. *Who was swallowed by a whale?*

A. Jonah.

Q. *Who was cast into a lions' den?*

A. Daniel.

Q. *Who were cast into the furnace of fire?*

A. The Hebrew children.

Q. *Who was the greatest of the prophets?*

A. Isaiah.

Q. *Who was the weeping prophet?*

A. Jeremiah.

Q. *Who saw the glory of the Lord?*

A. Ezekiel.

LESSON XX.

Miscellaneous Questions on New Testament History.

Q. *Who betrayed his Master?*

A. Judas Iscariot.

Q. *For how much?*
A. Thirty pieces of silver.
Q. *Who denied his Lord?*
A. Peter.
Q. *Who was the doubting disciple?*
A. Thomas.
Q. *Who was the beloved disciple?*
A. John.
Q. *Who was the chief of the apos-*
s?
A. Paul.
Q. *How many apostles were there at*
t?
A. Twelve.
Q. *Who was the first Christian mar-*
?
A. Stephen.
Q. *Which of the apostles was deliv-*
d out of prison by an angel?
A. Peter.
Q. *Which was killed by the sword?*
A. James, the brother of John.
Q. *Who sang praises at midnight*
les in prison?
A. Paul and Silas.

Q. *Who was banished to the isle of Patmos?*

A. John, the apostle.

Q. *Who were struck dead for lying?*

A. Ananias and Sapphira.

Q. *Who was early taught the Scriptures?*

A. Timothy.

Q. *Where were the disciples first called Christians?*

A. At Antioch.

Q. *Who said "Go thy way this time"?*

A. Felix.

Q. *Who said "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian"?*

A. King Agrippa.

Q. *Who sent Paul bound to Rome?*

A. Festus.

Q. *Who condemned Paul to death?*

A. The Emperor Nero.

Q. *Who is the glorious King of kings and Lord of lords?*

A. The Lord Jesus Christ.

Q. *Who are subject unto Him?*

A. Angels and principalities and powers.

Q. *Who will come to judge the world at the last day?*

A. Jesus Christ.

Q. *What belong to Him?*

A. All power and glory.

Q. *What doxology expresses this?*

A. "To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Exodus xx. 1-17.

God spake all these words, saying, I *am* the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I, the Lord thy God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the

fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me: and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

III.

Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain.

IV.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD thy God; in *it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates: for *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

V.

Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

VI.

Thou shalt not kill.

VII.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII.

Thou shalt not steal.

IX.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

X.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

MATTHEW vi. 9-13.

OUR Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

THE CREED.

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.